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**ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA VOLLEYBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (December 14, 2011) — In its 27th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with ESPNHS, today announced Darian Dozier of St. John's College High School as its 2011-12 Gatorade District of Columbia Volleyball Player of the Year. Dozier is the second Gatorade District of Columbia Volleyball Player of the Year to be chosen from St. John's College High School.

The award, which recognizes not only outstanding athletic excellence, but also high standards of academic achievement and exemplary character demonstrated on and off the court, distinguishes Dozier as District of Columbia's best high school volleyball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Volleyball Player of the Year award announced in December, Dozier joins an elite alumni association of past state volleyball award winners, including USA Volleyball players Kim Glass (2001-02, Horseshoe HS, Penn.), Kim Willoughby (1998-99, 1999-00, Assumption HS, La.) and Ogonna Nnamani (1999-00, University HS, Ill).

The 6-foot-1 senior outside hitter led the Cadets (21-7) to the Washington Catholic Athletic Conference semifinals this past season. She recorded 438 kills, 167 digs, 49 service aces and 31 blocks this past season while posting a kill percentage of .514. A 2011 Washington Post First Team All-Met selection and a 2011-12 American Volleyball Coaches Association Under Armour Honorable Mention All-American, Dozier set a single-game school record with 31 kills in a loss to Our Lady of Good Counsel in late September.

Dozier has maintained a B average in the classroom. She has volunteered locally on behalf of Students Against Destructive Decisions, the Special Olympics and as a youth volleyball camp counselor.

"Darian Dozier is an outstanding hitter who is dominant at the net," said Liz Hall, head coach of rival Maret School. "She is a strong passer, a consistent server and has a really solid understanding of the game. I certainly think she was the best player in D.C. this year."

Dozier has signed a National Letter of Intent to play volleyball on scholarship at the University of South Carolina beginning in the fall of 2012.

The Gatorade Player of the Year program annually recognizes one winner in the District of Columbia and each of the 50 states that sanction high school football, girls volleyball, boys and girls cross country, boys and girls basketball, boys and girls soccer, baseball, softball, and boys and girls track & field, and awards one National Player of the Year in each sport. The selection process is administered by ESPNHS and the Gatorade high school sports leadership team, which work with top sport-specific experts and a media advisory board of accomplished, veteran prep sports journalists to determine the state winners in each sport.

Dozier joins recent Gatorade District of Columbia Volleyball Players of the Year Isabel Eberstadt (2010-11, National Cathedral School), Jessie Egan (2009-10, Georgetown Visitation Preparatory School) and Carolyn Bottelier (2008-09, Maret School) among the state's list of former award winners.

To keep up to date on the latest happenings, become a fan of Gatorade Player of the Year on Facebook and follow us on Twitter. For more on the Gatorade Player of the Year program, including nomination information, a complete list of past winners, and the announcement of the Gatorade National Player of the Year, visit playeroftheyear.gatorade.com.

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